

## SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 29 FEBRUARY 2004

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

As an experiment in order to try and achieve better coverage this bulletin will also be relayed on 10,130 MHz as regularly as possible. Reception reports on this frequency will be appreciated.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za) and on packet bulletin boards.

### SILENT KEY

It is with regret that the passing of Barney Blomhof ZS6BFB is announced. Barney passed away on 18 February at the age of 81, after suffering a heart attack. He leaves a daughter and son behind. We extend our sympathies to his family and friends.

(PAUSE)

In the news today:

MEETING TO FOUND A DIVISION 1 FORUM

SKA TO FEATURE ON INTECNET TONIGHT

DISCOVERING AMATEUR RADIO

SARL CONTESTS

Stay tuned for more detail on these and other news items.

Visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

SARL NEWS invites clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to amateurs on the web site of the SARL, which is [www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp](http://www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp) not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English.

You are listening to ZS6SRL.

The news follows in detail.

MEETING TO FOUND A DIVISION 1 FORUM

On Saturday March 6 representatives of all clubs in Division 1 will meet with the aim of founding a Division 1 Forum.

The purpose of this forum will be the advancement of the SARL in Division 1, advancement of facets of amateur radio in Division 1 and to create an umbrella organisation to further co-operation between the various clubs.

The inaugural meeting will be held at 11:00 on Saturday March 6 in Swellendam. Official invitations to attend the inaugural meeting, had been sent to all clubs. All interested amateurs are also welcome to attend the meeting.

If you require more information, you are requested to kindly contact one of the candidates nominated for Council. Contact details regarding these persons are available on the web site of the SARL.

#### SKA TO FEATURE ON INTECNET TONIGHT

SKA is the acronym for the Square Kilometre Array, a massive radio telescope designed to probe the gaseous component of the early universe. The search is on for the right area to build the array.

The Northern Cape has been tipped as one of the possible areas and was recently visited by a group of international experts who spent a week in South Africa to evaluate the various support infrastructures that South Africa has to offer. The Government has appointed Dr Bernie Fanaroff as project manager for the bid group.

Should South Africa be awarded the project it would create realistic and global business opportunities for the construction, defence, software, communication, electronics and steel industries.

The SARL Intecnet will feature the SKA project tonight with guest speakers Dr Bernie Fanaroff and Neel Smuts. Dr Fanaroff will explain the project in detail while Neel Smuts will talk about a project to determine the amount of radio pollution in the three designated areas. Neel told SARLNEWS that there will be opportunities for Radio Amateurs to make a major contribution.

Find out more tonight.

The SARL Intecnet is on the air at 20:00 this evening (Sunday 29 February) on many local repeaters and on 3715 kHz.

Clubs wishing to join their repeater should send an email to [armi@sarl.org.za](mailto:armi@sarl.org.za) before noon today giving details of the telephone number to be linked. Links via Echolink will also be available.

#### DISCOVERING AMATEUR RADIO.

The Muddlers Net and the Southern African Antique Wireless Association (SAAWA), in conjunction with the SARL, invite all amateurs and interested parties to a day of talks, on-the-air- demonstrations, and static displays of Amateur Radio related equipment and topics on Saturday, 20th March at the National Amateur Radio Centre OR NARC, at Radiokop, Johannesburg.

Members of SAAWA will display some of the older radio equipment.

A number of highly qualified and experienced amateurs will be presenting their latest ideas and designs at this event.

Topics will include some historical developments in radio design and current designs and construction of radios and antennas.

Of particular interest will be the theory and circuit for a noise squasher. Most amateurs suffer from ambient electronic noise in the shack, caused by switched mode power supplies. The noise squasher is capable of cancelling out these unwanted received signals.

Presentations will commence at 09:00. Soft drinks and light snacks will be available.

Details and times of future presentations shall be announced during future SARL bulletins.

Should you have any queries, please call Alan ZS6BIK at 011-678- 2887 or email to [zs1fg@telkomsa.net](mailto:zs1fg@telkomsa.net).

#### SARL CONTESTS

The first leg of the SARL VHF/UHF Contest will take place over the weekend of 20 and 21 March, starting at 12:00 CAT on the Saturday and ending 24 hours later. Phone and CW activity on 6, 4 and 2 metres, 70 and 23 cm.

On Thursday 1 April the first 80 metre QSO Party will be on the air, starting at 19:00 CAT. This is a phone only contest.

On Sunday 11 April the SARL HAMNET 40 metre Simulated Emergency Contest will run from 14:00 to 16:00 CAT.

The rules for all these contests are available on the SARL website at [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za). There is also contest software available for the VHF/UHF Contest on the website.

#### CONTEST LOG SUBMISSIONS

Contesters are reminded that the logs for the first leg of the SARL HF Field Day held on 14 and 15 February are due and the closing date is 1 March. The correct postal address to send logs to is: SARL HQ, PO Box 1721, Strubensvallei, 1735. Please mark the envelopes with the contest name and call sign. Logs can be faxed to 011-675-2793. Again please clearly mark the message with the contest name and your call sign. If the log is sent by email then make sure you have the correct email address, which is [contests@sarl.org.za](mailto:contests@sarl.org.za). Make sure of the spelling - it is c o n t e s t s @ sarl.org.za.

#### PEARS NATIONAL VHF/UHF CONTEST

Many of the logs for the abovementioned contest are still being awaited by the contest committee at the Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society.

Unfortunately, the address at the PEARS website, to which several contestants have tried to send their logs, is not able to accept the messages. All who wish to send in their logs should please address them to glaaks@iafrica.com and they will be passed to the correct people.

The closing date has been extended in the meantime, and PEARS hopes there will be many new logs coming in.

#### SARL KIDS DAY

The first SARL Kid's Day for 2004 was held on Saturday 14 February. The Border Radio Club, the Overberg, Bloemfontein, Sandton and East Rand ARC's had stations on the air allowing young people to enjoy amateur radio. A big word of thanks to all the radio amateurs who took part in this activity.

#### SOLAR ACTIVITY

Tad Cook, K7RA, of Seattle, Washington, reported that a large sunspot emerged over the past week. On February 21, sunspot 564 began to appear around the east limb of the visible solar disk.

By February 23, it was five times as large as Earth. The sunspot was rotating across the upper hemisphere of the sun, so it was never aimed squarely toward earth, but it was most directed toward us on February 25.

Average daily sunspot numbers were slightly higher the past week than the previous week. Average daily solar flux was lower by 0,2 points. Solar activity is rising, and solar flux should peak between February 28 to March 1 at around 130. A sunspot currently is forming on the far side of the sun, and it may cause a slight rise in solar flux around March 8.

Geomagnetic conditions have been very quiet this week. Sunspot 563 released two solar flares on February 26. Earth is expected to encounter a solar wind stream on February 29 or March 1.

Planetary A index predictions for February 27 through March 2 are 12, 12, 15, 20 and 20.

Sunspot numbers for February 19 through 25 were 33, 34, 52, 58, 68, 85 and 107, with a mean of 62,4. The 10,7 cm flux was 96,4, 95,4, 98,2, 103,9, 104,3, 105,5 and 118,5, with a mean of 103,2.

Estimated planetary A indices were 5, 4, 7, 8, 8, 11 and 8, with a mean of 7,3.

This item was condensed from the ARRL newsletter.

#### ACTIVITIES IN WHICH TO PARTICIPATE

The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 17 815, 9 750, and 7 082 kHz and 145,625 MHz in East London, 145,650 in Durban 145,750 MHz in Pretoria and 438,800 in the Sandton area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz.

Telkom and Sentech sponsor ARMI.

The Presidents Net will be on the air at 12:00 CAT today. The Net will be active on 20, 30 and 40 metres with relays to many two- metre repeaters. We are still looking for relay stations in Pretoria, Limpopo and Durban. If you can assist please contact Peter ZS6PHD at zs6phd@mweb.co.za

Also today 29 February, but at 20:00 tonight - Intechnet on SKA; 20 to 21 March - The VHF/UHF contest; 20 March - Discover amateur radio at the NARS; Thursday 01 April the first 80-metre QSO Party at 19:00 CAT Sunday 11 April the SARL HAMNET 40-Metre Simulated Emergency Contest from 14:00 to 16:00 CAT.

This then brings us to the end of today's bulletin, which was compiled by George, ZS6NE, and read by .....from..... as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL and thank you for having joined us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX